

Author: The primary author of this document is Mr. John F. Milio (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Dated: June 20, 1995.

Mollie H. Beattie,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 95-17386 Filed 7-14-95; 8:45 am]

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50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD20

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Special Rule for the Conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl on Non-Federal Lands

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Reopening of the comment period for the proposed special rule.

SUMMARY: On February 17, 1995 (60 FR 9484), the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a proposed special rule, pursuant to section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (Act), to replace the blanket prohibitions against incidental take of spotted owls with a narrower, more tailor-made set of standards that reduce prohibitions applicable to timber harvest and related activities on specified non-Federal forest lands in Washington and California. The original deadline for comments on the proposed rule was May 18, 1995, however, on May 18, 1995 (60 FR 26712), a notice was published in the **Federal Register** announcing the reopening of the comment period to end July 17, 1995. The intent of this notice is to reopen the comment period to September 15, 1995.

DATES: The comment period for written comments is reopened until September 15, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposed rule should be sent to Mr. Michael J. Spear, Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Curt Smitch, Assistant Regional Director, North Pacific Coast Ecoregion, 3704 Griffin Lane SE, Suite 102, Olympia, Washington 98501 (360/534-9330); or Mr. Gerry Jackson, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, North Pacific Coast Ecoregion, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (503/231-6159).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The implementing regulations for threatened wildlife generally incorporate the prohibitions of section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for endangered wildlife, except when a "special rule" promulgated pursuant to section 4(d) of the Act has been issued with respect to a particular threatened species. At the time the northern spotted owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina*, was listed as a threatened species in 1990, the Service did not promulgate a special section 4(d) rule and therefore, all of the section 9 prohibitions, including the "take" prohibitions, became applicable to the species. To replace the blanket prohibitions against take of spotted owls, the Service published a proposed special rule, 50 CFR Part 17, on February 17, 1995, in the **Federal Register**, pursuant to section 4(d) of the Act, which proposes a narrower, more tailor-made set of standards that reduce prohibitions applicable to timber harvest and related activities on specified non-Federal forest lands in Washington and California.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: July 10, 1995.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 95-17422 Filed 7-14-95; 8:45 am]

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50 CFR Part 18

RIN 1018-AD04

Importation of Polar Bear Trophies From Canada; Proposed Rule on Legal and Scientific Findings To Implement Section 104(c)(5)(A) of the 1994 Amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Supplemental proposed rule and findings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the proposed legal and scientific findings on the importation of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) taken in sport hunts in Canada, including ones taken, but not imported, prior to enactment of the 1994 Amendments of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Specifically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to find that the Northwest Territories (NWT), the only area in Canada that currently allows sport hunting, has a monitored and enforced sport-hunting program that ensures polar bears are legally taken, is consistent with the purposes of the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, and is based on scientifically sound quotas ensuring the maintenance of the affected population stock at a sustainable level, provided certain provisions are in place in the specific population. The Service proposes to approve populations where the status of the population has been stable or increasing for previous harvest seasons and local and/or joint management agreement(s) are in place. Since Canada and the United States are Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Service proposes that import and export procedures are in place to meet CITES requirements. This notice also proposes regulations on the disposition of the gall bladder, tagging of trophies, and import procedures needed to monitor legal import and to ensure the import will not contribute to illegal trade in bear parts. The Service invites comment on options proposed to meet the provisions of Section 102(b) of the MMPA concerning the importation of pregnant and nursing polar bears. For polar bears taken in the NWT prior to the Amendments through the effective date of the final rule, the Service proposes to issue permits when proof of legal take is demonstrated and the provisions of the Act concerning pregnant and nursing polar bears are met. The Service intends to make these findings for multiple sport-hunting seasons pending review as required